

MOR

MO'RSSEL. *n. f.* [*morcellus*, low Latin, from *morfus*.]

1. A piece fit for the mouth; a mouthful.
Yet can't thou to a morsel of this feast,
Having fully din'd before.

I was *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*

A morsel for a monarch. *Shakefp. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
And me his parent would full soon devour
For want of other prey, but knows that I
Should prove a bitter morsel, and his bane. *Milton.*
Every morsel to a fastidious hunger, is only a new labour to
a tired digestion. *South's Sermons.*

He boils the flesh,
And lays the mangled morsels in a dish. *Dryden.*

A wretch is pris'ner made,
Whose flesh torn off by lumps, the rav'nous foe
In morsels cut, to make it farther go. *Tate's Juvenal.*
A letter to the keeper of the lion requested that it may be
the first morsel put into his mouth. *Addison.*

2. A piece; a meal.
On these herbs, and fruits and flow'rs,
Feed first; on each beast next, and fish and fowl,
No homely morsels! *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*
A dog crossing a river with a morsel of flesh in his mouth,
faw, as he thought, another dog under the water, upon the
very same adventure. *L'Estrange's Fables.*

3. A small quantity. Not proper.
Of the morsels of native and pure gold, he had seen some
weighed many pounds. *Boyle.*

MO'RSURE. *n. f.* [*morfura*, Fr. *morfura*, Latin.] The act of
biting.

MORT. *n. f.* [*morte*, French.]

1. A time founded at the death of the game.
To be making practis'd smiles,
As in a looking-glass, and to sigh as 'twere
The mort o' the deer; oh that is entertainment
My bosom likes not. *Shakefp. Winter's Tale.*

2. [*Mort*, Ilhandick.] A great quantity. Not in elegant use.

MORTAL. *adj.* [*mortalis*, Lat. *mortal*, Fr.]

1. Subject to death; doomed sometime to die.
Nature does require
Her times of preservation, which, perforce,
I her frail son amongst my brethren mortal
Must give my attendance to. *Shakefp. Henry VIII.*
This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal
must put on immortality. *1 Cor. xv. 53.*
Heav'nly powers, where shall we find such love!
Which of ye will be mortal to redeem
Man's mortal crime; and just, th' unjust to save. *Milton.*

Know,
The day thou eat'st thereof, my sole command
Transgress, inevitably thou shalt die;
From that day mortal: and this happy state
Shalt lose.

2. Deadly; destructive; procuring death.
Come all you spirits
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,
And fill me from the crown to the toe, top full
Of cruelty. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*
The mortals poisons practis'd by the West Indians, have
some mixture of the blood, fat, or flesh of man. *Bacon.*

The fruit
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world, and all our woe. *Milton.*
Some circumstances have been great discouragers of trade,
and others are absolutely mortal to it. *Temple.*

Hope not, base man! unquestion'd hence to go,
For I am Palamon, thy mortal foe. *Dryden.*

3. Bringing death.
Safe in the hand of one disposing pow'r,
Or in the natal, or the mortal hour. *Pope's Essay on Man.*

4. Human; belonging to man.
They met me in the day of success; and I have learned
by the perfected report, they have more in them than mortal
knowledge. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*

Macbeth
Shall live the lease of nature, pay his breath
To time and mortal custom. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*

The voice of God
To mortal ear is dreadful; They beseech,
That Moses might report to them his will,
And terror cease. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*

Success, the mark no mortal wit,
Or surest hand can always hit. *Butler.*
No one enjoyment but is liable to be lost by ten thousand
accidents, out of all mortal power to prevent. *South's Sermon.*

5. Extreme; violent. A low word.
The birds were in a mortal apprehension of the beetles, till
the sparrow reasoned them into understanding. *L'Estrange.*
The nymph grew pale and in a mortal fright,
Spent with the labour of so long a flight;
And now despairing, cast a mournful look
Upon the streams. *Dryden.*

MOR

MO'RTAL. *n. f.*

1. Man; human being.
Warn poor mortals left behind. *Titchel.*
2. This is often used in ludicrous language.
I can behold no mortal now;
For what's an eye without a brow? *Prior.*

MORTALITY. *n. f.* [from *mortal*.]

1. Subjection to death; state of a being subject to death.
I point out mistakes in life and religion, that we might
guard against the springs of error, guilt, and sorrow, which
surround us in every state of mortality. *Watson's Logic.*

2. Death.
I beg mortality,
Rather than life preserv'd with infamy. *Shakefp.*
Gladly would I meet
Mortality my sentence. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*

Power of destruction.
Mortality and mercy in Vienna
Live in thy tongue and heart. *Shakefp. Meas. for Meas.*

4. Frequency of death.
The life of keeping those accounts first began in the year
1592, being a time of great mortality. *Grant.*

5. Human nature.
A single vision so transports them, that it makes up the
happines of their lives; mortality cannot bear it often. *Dryd.*
Take these tears, mortality's relief,
And till we share your joys, forgive our grief. *Pope.*

MO'RTALLY. *adv.* [from *mortal*.]

1. Irreversibly; to death.
In the battle of Landen you were not only dangerously,
but, in all appearance, mortally wounded. *Dryden.*

2. Extremely; to extremity.
Adrian mortally envied poets, painters, and artificers, in
works wherein he had a vein to excel. *Bacon's Essay.*
Know all, who would pretend to my good grace,
I mortally dislike a damping face. *Granville.*

MO'RTARIUM. *n. f.* [*mortarium*, Lat. *mortier*, Fr.]

1. A strong vessel in which materials are broken by being pound-
ed with a pestle.
Except you could bray Christendom in a mortar, and mould
it into a new paste, there is no possibility of an holy war.

The action of the diaphragm and muscles serves for the
communion of the meat in the stomach by their constant
agitation upwards and downwards, resembling the pounding
of materials in a mortar. *Roy on Creation.*

2. A short wide cannon out of which bombs are thrown.
Those arms which for nine centuries had brav'd
The wrath of time on antique stone engrav'd,
Now torn by mortars stand yet undecad'd
On nobler trophies by thy valour rais'd. *Granville.*

MO'RTAR. *n. f.* [*morter*, Dutch; *mortier*, French.] Cement
made of lime and sand with water, and used to join stones
or bricks.

Mortar, in architecture, is a preparation of lime and sand
mixed up with water, serving as a cement, and used by mas-
ons and bricklayers in building of walls of stone and brick.
Wolius observes, that the sand should be dry and sharp, so
as to prick the hands when rubbed, yet not earthy, so as to
foul the water it is washed in: he also finds fault with mas-
ons and bricklayers as committing a great error, in letting
their lime slacken and cool before they make up their mortar,
and also in letting their mortar cool and die before they use
it; therefore he advises, that if you expect your work to be
well done, and to continue long, to work up the lime quick,
and but a little at a time, that the mortar may not lie long
before it be used.

I will tread this unbolted villain into mortar, and daub the
wall of a jakes with him. *Shakefp. King Lear.*

They had brick for stone, and slime for mortar. *Gen. xi. 3.*
Lime hot out of the kiln mixed soft with water, putting
sand to it, will make better mortar than other. *Mortimer.*

MO'RTGAGE. *n. f.* [*mort and gage*, French.]

1. A dead pledge; a thing put into the hands of a creditor.
Th' estate runs out, and mortgages are made,
Their fortune ruin'd, and their fame betray'd. *Dryden.*
The Romans do not seem to have known the secret of pa-
per credit, and securities upon mortgages. *Arbutnot.*

The broker,
Bent on some mortgage, to avoid reproach,
He seeks bye-fires, and faves th' expensive coach. *Gay.*

2. The state of being pledged.
The land is given in mortgage only, with full intention to
be redeemed within one year. *Bacon's Office of Alienation.*

TO MO'RTGAGE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To pledge; to put
to pledge; to make over to a creditor as a security.

Let men contrive how they disentangle their mortgaged
souls. *Decay of Piety.*

They make the widows mortgage'd ox their prey. *Sandys.*
Their not abating of their expensive way of living, has
forced them to mortgage their best manors. *Arbutnot.*

MORTGAGEE.

MOR

MORTGAGEE. *n. f.* [from *mortgage*.] He that takes or receives
a mortgage.

An act may pass for publick registries of land, by which
all purchasers or mortgagors may be secured of all monies they
lay out. *Temple's Miscel.*

MO'RTGAGER. *n. f.* [from *mortgage*.] He that gives a mort-
gage.

MORTIFEROUS. *adj.* [*mortifer*, Latin.] Fatal; deadly; de-
structive.

What is it but a continued perpetuated voice from heaven,
to give men no rest in their sins, no quiet from Christ's im-
portunity, till they awake from the lethargick sleep, and arise
from fo dead, so mortiferous a state, and permit him to give
them life. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*

These murmurings, like a mortiferous herb, are poisonous
even in their first spring. *Government of the Tongue, f. 10.*

MORTIFICATION. *n. f.* [*mortification*, Fr. from *mortif*.]

1. The state of corrupting, or losing the vital qualities; gan-
grene.
It appeareth in the gangrene, or mortification of flesh, either
by opiates, or intense colds. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. N^o. 333.*

My griefs ferment and rage,
Nor less than wounds immedicable,
Rankle and fester, and gangrene,
To black mortification. *Milton's Agonist. l. 617.*

2. Destruction of active qualities.
Inquire what gives impediment to union or restitution,
which is called mortification; as when quicksilver is mortified
with turpentine. *Bacon's Physical Remains.*

3. The act of subduing the body by hardships and macerations.
A diet of some fish is more rich and alkalescent than that
of flesh, and therefore very improper for such as practise mor-
tification. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

4. Humiliation; subjection of the passions.
The mortification of our lusts has something in it that is
troublesome, yet nothing that is unreasonable. *Tillotson.*

5. Vexation; trouble.
It is one of the most vexatious mortifications of a studious
man, to have his thoughts disordered by a tedious visit.

We had the mortification to lose the sight of Munich, Augs-
burg, and Ratisbon. *Addison on Italy.*

TO MO'RTIFY. *v. a.* [*mortifier*, French.]

1. To destroy vital qualities.
2. To destroy active powers, or essential qualities.

What gives impediment to union or restitution is called
mortification, as when quicksilver is mortified with turpentine
or spirit. *Bacon.*

He mortified pearls in vinegar, and drunk them up. *Hakew.*
Oil of tartar per deliquium has a great faculty to find out
and mortify acid spirits. *Boyle.*

3. To subdue inordinate passions.
The breath no sooner left his father's body,
But that his widows mortified in him,
Seem'd to die too. *Shakefp. Henry V.*

Their dear causes
Would to the bleeding and the grim alarm
Excite the mortified man. *Shakefp. Macbeth.*

Suppress thy knowing pride,
Mortify thy learned lust,
Vain are thy thoughts, while thou thyself art dust. *Prior.*

He modestly conjectures,
His pupil might be tir'd with lectures,
Which help'd to mortify his pride. *Swift.*

4. To macerate or harass the body to compliance with the
mind.
We mortify ourselves with fast, and think we fare coarsely
if we abstain from flesh. *Breton's Vulgar Errors.*

Mortify'd he was to that degree,
A poorer than himself he would not see. *Dryden.*

5. To humble; to depress; to vex.
Let my liver rather heat with wine,
Than my heart cool with mortifying groans. *Shakefp.*

He is controuled by a nod, mortified by a frown, and trans-
ported by a smile. *Addison's Guard. N. 113.*

How often is the ambitious man mortified with the very
praises he receives, if they do not rise to high as he thinks
they ought. *Addison's Spect. N^o. 256.*

TO MO'RTIFY. *v. n.*

1. To gangrene; to corrupt.
Try it with capon laid abroad, to see whether it will mor-
tify and become tender sooner; or with dead flies with water
cast upon them, to see whether it will putrefy. *Bacon.*

2. To be subdu'd; to die away.
MO'RTISE. *n. f.* [*mortise*, Fr.] A hole cut into
wood that another piece may be put into it and form a
joint.

A fuller blast ne'er shook our battlements;
If it hath ruin'd it to upon the sea,
What ribs of oaks, when mountains melt on them,
Can hold the mortise. *Shakefp. Othello.*

MOS

Under one skin are parts variously mingled, some with ca-
vities, as *mosses* to receive, others with tenons to fit cavi-
ties. *Roy.*

TO MO'RTISE. *v. a.*

1. To cut with a mortise; to join with a mortise.
'Tis a mally wheel,
To whose huge spoke ten thousand lesser things
Are mortis'd and adjoin'd. *Shakefp. Hamlet.*

The walls of spiders legs are made, *Dryden's Nymphid.*
Well mortis'd and finely laid.

2. It seems in the following passage improperly used.
The one half of the ship being finished, and by help of a
screw launched into the water, the other half was joined by
great brass nails mortis'd with lead. *Arbutnot on Cain.*

MO'RTMAIN. *n. f.* [*morte and main*, Fr.] Such a state of pos-
session as makes it unalienable; whence it is said to be in a
dead hand, in a hand that cannot shift away the property.

It were meet that some small portion of lands were allot-
ted, since no more *mortmains* are to be looked for. *Spenser.*

MO'RTPAY. *n. f.* [*mort and pay*.] Dead pay; payment not
made.

This parliament was merely a parliament of war, with
some statutes conducing therunto; as the severe punishing of
mortgages, and keeping back of soldiers wages. *Bacon.*

MO'RTRESS. *n. f.* [from *mortier de sagesse*.] *Skinner.* A dish
of meat of various kinds beaten together.

A mortress made with the brawn of capons, stamped,
strained, and mingled with like quantity of almond butter,
is excellent to nourish the weak. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

MO'RTUARY. *n. f.* [*mortuarie*, Fr. *mortuarium*, Latin.] A
gift left by a man at his death to his parish church, for the
recompence of his personal tythes and offerings not duly paid
in his life-time. *Harris.*

MOSA'ICK. *adj.* [*mosaïque*, French, supposed corrupted from
mosaicus, Latin.]

Mosaic is a kind of painting in small pebbles, cockles,
and shells of sundry colours; and of late days likewise with
pieces of glass figured at pleasure; an ornament in truth, of
much beauty, and long life, but of most use in pavements and
floorings. *Wotton's Architecture.*

Each beauteous flow'r,
Iris all hues, roses, and jessamin,
Rear'd high their flourish'd heads between, and wrought
Mosaic. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. iv.*

The most remarkable remnant of it is a very beautiful mo-
saick pavement, the finest I have ever seen in marble; the
parts are so well joined together, that the whole piece looks
like a continued picture. *Addison on Italy.*

MO'SCHATEL. *n. f.* [*moschatellina*, Lat.] A plant.

The moschatel hath a flower consisting of one leaf, which
is divided at the brim into many parts, from whose cup arises
the point, fixed like a nail in the middle of the flower,
which becomes a soft succulent berry, in which are contain'd
many flat seeds. *Boyle.*

MO'SQUE. *n. f.* [*mosquée*, French; *moschit*, Turkish.] A Ma-
hometan temple.

MOSS. *n. f.* [*muscus*, Lat. *moos*, Saxon.] A plant.

Though moss was formerly supposed to be only an excre-
cence produced from the earth and trees, yet it is no less a
perfect plant than those of greater magnitude, having roots,
flowers, and seeds, yet cannot be propagated from seeds by
any art: the botanists distinguish it into many species; it
chiefly flourishes in cold countries, and in the winter season,
and is many times very injurious to fruit trees: the only re-
medy in such cases, is to cut down part of the trees, and
plough up the ground between those left remaining; and in
the Spring, in moist weather, you should with an iron instru-
ment scrape off the moss. *Miller.*

Moss is a kind of mould of the earth and trees; but it
may be better sort'd as a rudiment of germination. *Bacon.*

Houses then were caves, or homely sheds,
With twining oaters fenc'd, and moss their beds. *Dryden.*

Such mosses as grow upon walls, roofs of houses, and other
high places, have seeds that, when shaken out of their ves-
sels, appear like vapour or smoke. *Roy on Creation.*

The cleft tree
Offers its kind concealment to a few,
Their food its insects, and its moss their nests. *Thomson.*

TO MOSS. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To cover with moss.

An oak whose boughs were moss'd with age,
And high top bald with dry antiquity. *Shakefp.*

Will these moss'd trees,
That have out-liv'd the eagle page thy heels,
And skip when thou point'st out. *Shakefp.*

MO'SSINESS. *n. f.* [from *moss*.] The state of being covered or
overgrown with moss.

The herbs wither'd at the top, sheweth the earth to be
very cold, and so doth the mossiness of trees. *Bacon.*

MO'SSY. *adj.* [from *moss*.] Overgrown with moss; covered
with moss.